

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 9-18 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information outflow prevention punch comprising:
 - an operation part that is longitudinally long;
 - a punch blade group comprising composed of two or more punch blades forming a column in a longitudinal direction in said operation part;
 - a rotation axis running at a right angle to a direction of the column of the punch blades and provided in a front end side of said operation part;
 - a top base supporting said rotation axis in the front end side; and
 - a bottom base fixed to said top base in a rear end side and forming an insertion slot for a punch material in conjunction with said top base; and
 - a lifting mechanism for lifting said punch blade group,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the operation part rotates up and down with said rotation axis as a fulcrum, in that neighboring n-th punch blade and (n+1)-th punch blade of said punch blade group are provided close to such a degree that information written on the punch material cannot be identified, and in that a punch material is inserted from the insertion slot at the front edge side of said operation part and the rear end of said operation part is pushed down to lower said punch blade group ~~from above~~ said top base to punch a plurality of holes in the punch material for preventing information outflow.
2. (Currently Amended) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1,
~~wherein~~ characterized in that a diameter of each punch blade of said punch blade group is Φ3 mm to Φ 20 mm and a spacing between the neighboring n-th punch blade and (n+1)-th punch blade of said punch blade group is smaller than a diameter of the n-th punch blade and smaller

than a diameter of the (n+1)-th punch blade.

3. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein 1 characterized in that said information outflow prevention punch has lifting mechanism comprises a lifting spring for said operation part and said punch blade group.
4. (Currently Amended – Withdrawn) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein 1 characterized in that blade edges of the punch blades of said punch blade group are lowered parallel to a surface of the punch material.
5. (Currently Amended – Withdrawn) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein 1 characterized in that a marking indicating a position of said punch blade group is provided.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein 1 characterized in that a chip bin is provided under said punch blade group.
8. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein 1 characterized in that a stopper that holds said operation part in a pushed-state is provided.
9. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, further

comprising a plurality of concave portions, which indicate a position of said punch blades, disposed on a surface of said operation part.

10. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, further comprising a centering mark, which indicates a center position of a width of said punch blade group, disposed on said operation part.

11. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 8, wherein said stopper comprises:

an operation plate, which moves along said operation part;
a convex part, which moves along with said operation part; and
a concave part, fixed on said operation part, which engages said convex part.

12. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein said top base comprises a bottom plate serving as the insertion slot.

13. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 12, wherein said bottom plate has an up-curved guide plate at an end of said bottom plate.

14. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein said top base comprises fixing parts for receiving said lifting mechanism.

15. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein said lifting mechanism comprise at least one of a lifting spring and a coil spring.

16. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, further comprising a raised part for lowering said punch blade group.

17. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein said punch blades have a same cylindrical shape.

18. (New) The information outflow prevention punch according to claim 1, wherein said punch blades have a same diameter.